

Shrewsbury Public Library

Summer 2006 News & Events

A Note from the Director...

In early April we had two overdue books returned. And while we have books returned late on a regular basis (life is quite busy after all), these books were a bit different in that both were returned about 50 years late.

Nancy Colby, our Head of Circulation services, mentioned she had some interesting items to show me. She retrieved two rather old books from her desk. The books' subjects were interesting, in that they were the "popular materials" of their day. One was a cookbook for using chocolate and cocoa entitled Choice Recipes by Miss Parloa and Mrs. Janet McKenzie Hill, printed in 1916. The second title, Decoration for the Small Home by Derek Patmore, published in 1938, was an early volume on interior design. The cookbook was due March 27, 1940, while the design book was actually not due until August 5, 1957. One staff member joked, "I wonder what the overdue fine would be?" I had to laugh to think of it.

The books had been returned by a grandfather and his grandson, who found them in a relative's home. Needless to say, we no longer have records on who had the books out, or if we had ever notified the original borrower that the books were overdue. It was just a curious occurrence to see the books returned about half a century late.

The return of these books does provide a fine opportunity to discuss overdue books and other materials. Overdues and fines are so closely associated with public libraries, that sometimes librarians are mistakenly seen as "guardians of the collection." Many of my colleagues can tell stories of being in line at the grocery store, or visiting a child's school teacher, or out at a party, and having someone confess their full borrowing history, describing what materials they have overdue or how much they owe in fines. Years ago, while having blood drawn; I had a nurse confess with obvious embarrassment the bitter truth that she had "a lot of really overdue books." She was convinced I knew what she had out, how many days they were overdue and how many millions she was going to owe when she did get around to returning them. Of course I had no such facts floating around in my head; I just wanted her to finish performing her work so I could have my arm back.

Most libraries and librarians have moved beyond seeing their main responsibility as collection control. We are more interested and focused on providing materials and services to users. The true goal, after all, is to serve the public. It is true that part of that responsibility is working to make sure materials are available to library users. We try to purchase materials that people desire, to adequately describe items in the catalog so that patrons can easily find them, to assure that borrowed materials find their way back to the shelves for other users, and that items are shelved properly so they can be found. Getting materials back on time is just one of the tasks involved in making sure collections are useful for all patrons.

Fines are designed to be incentive for returning materials on time, but we also recognize that large fines can be a deterrent to returning materials and using the library. That's unfortunate.

SO... with that in mind, the Board of Trustees has approved an amnesty for overdue materials.

From Thursday June 1st through Friday June 9th there will be an amnesty for all overdue items from the Shrewsbury Public Library. This means you can return your overdue materials (books, videos, DVDs, magazines, audio items, or paintings) without being charged any fines. We hope you'll dig through your closets, check your book shelves, excavate beneath your car seat--and maybe even check the homes of relatives to see if you have any long lost materials from the SPL. The example above shows you never know where and when overdue books might show up.

Just drop by during early June with your late materials and plan to walk away with a clear conscience (at least regarding overdue library materials) at no charge. We hope you'll feel the burden of responsibility lifted. We know we'll be thrilled to get the materials back for other users.

Sincerely,
Ellen M. Dolan
Library Director

Children's Room News

Don't miss out! Stop in after June 1st to get your calendar of events for all the children's programs available this summer at the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Bug Light Special!

All summer long, you'll never know when we'll turn on the bug light. If you're in the Children's Room (reading, playing a game, or looking for books) you could get zapped! (Getting "zapped" doesn't hurt: it means you win a prize!)



Stories on the Move

This summer, the library will sponsor a weekly story hour at Edgemere Park through the month of July and first 2 weeks of August. We'll also be working with the Parks & Recreation department, conducting story hours for camp participants. Call or stop by the library for information and dates.

Gulliver's Travels



Where's Gulliver gone now? This summer, everyone's favorite jet-setting gnome will be visiting different places in Shrewsbury. If you find him with the help of our clues, you can win a prize. Check out all the details in the Children's Room this summer.

Celebrity Storytime

Monday nights at 6:30pm, July 10th through August 14th: Come to the Children's Room courtyard for Celebrity Storytime. Each week will feature a different celebrity from our community or state. Stop in to the Children's Room to find out who'll be the reader for each week. No registration required.

Beyond Storytime: Join us in the Children's Room this summer as we read through a chapter book (or two). Think of this as reality book-on-tape! Recommended for Grades 2 & up.

Tuesdays at 2:30, July 11 through August 8.

Summer Programs

Tuesday, June 27th at 2:30 – Davis Bates and Roger Ticknell present *Earth Rhythms*, an exciting music and storytelling program that celebrates and teaches environmental awareness and responsibility. Space is limited so please get your free tickets beginning in June. This program is made possible through our local Cultural Council, which is supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Thursday, June 29th at 2:30 – Shrewsbury's own **April Jones Prince** will be holding a book signing for her new book, *What Do Wheels Do All Day?* This will be followed by a wheel craft. Come join April for a "wheely" fun afternoon. Space is limited, so please register early.

Thursday, July 6th at 2:30 – "What's the Difference Between Hearing and Listening"? Join us for a program on effective listening. We have taught our children how to speak, read and write; but have we taught them how to listen? With silly stories, fun games and a craft, children will be introduced to what it takes to become effective listeners. Physiology enables us to


hear; training and practice help us to become effective listeners. Join town resident Sira Frongillo Naras, (Adjunct Professor – Clark University and Worcester State College) for an hour of fun and learning about listening. Space is limited, so register early.

Wednesday, July 12th at 2:30 – All About Bees. Bee Man, Donald Rising, will be coming to the Shrewsbury Public Library to talk about bees and how to raise them. A book about bees and a "bee craft" will also be part of the program. Things should be "buzzin'!" Space is limited, so please register early.

Tuesday, August 15th at 2:30 – Museum of Science presents **Animal Invaders: Who's Hiding in Your Wall?** Meet three different live animals who are very successful at living among people. Why are some animals so good at buzzing into our rooms, creeping into our basement and hiding in our attics? Using experiments and demonstrations, we reveal the secrets of these invaders. Space is limited so get your free tickets beginning July 14th.

Summer Reading 2006

What's Buzzin' @ the Shrewsbury Public Library?

We're launching the 2006 summer reading program on June 26th. This bug and fun-filled program encourages children to read during the summer months. Be sure to come in the week of June 26 to get your log books and calendar of events. Learn about craft programs, storytimes, special events and prizes to win. What's Buzzin' @ the Shrewsbury Public Library will have kids buzzin' about great books, fun activities and a lineup of special events. 

Mark your calendars now! Summer reading runs Monday, June 26 through Wednesday, August 16. The end-of-summer picnic for program participants will be on Friday, August 18, at 11:30 am.

Did you know?

What's Buzzin' @ Your Library, the 2006 Statewide Reading Program, is funded by the Shrewsbury Public Library, the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.



SPL's 2006 Teen
Summer Reading Program
Starts June 26!

Last year we gave away 2 iPod Shuffles and other great prizes. What will be the grand prize this year? Sign up and for every title you read between June 26 and August 17, receive a chance to win! Be on the lookout for more info and activities coming soon. Open to Shrewsbury students in grades 5-12.



WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD VOLUNTEERS!

The Children's Department is looking for volunteers to help with the annual Summer Reading Program. Volunteers can assist with registration, children's check-ins, and the summer reading picnic. Volunteers are needed for the following times: Mondays/Tuesdays/Wednesdays, 10am-12pm, 2-4pm and 6-8pm. Thursdays, 10am-12pm and 2-4pm. For more information, please contact Linda Johnson at 508-842-0081 x4 or ljohnson@cwmar.org. Thanks!

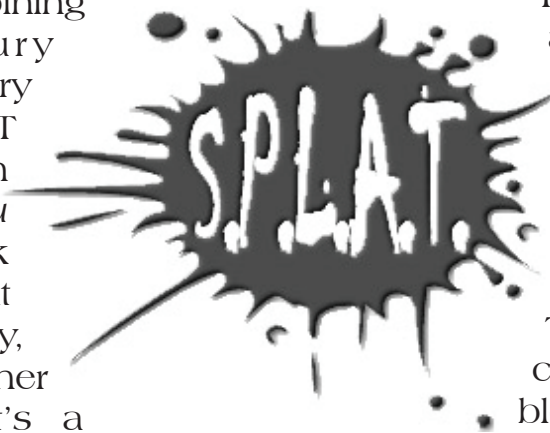
Young Adult Prize Donations

The Young Adult Department is still looking for sponsors for the 2006 Summer Reading Program: Get Your Game On. Over 300 teens participated in last year's program, Tune In @ Your Library. If your family or business would like to sponsor a prize, please contact Sarah Sogigian at 508-842-0081 x3 or ssogigia@cwmar.org



Young Adult Stuff

Are you a teen that loves the library? Consider joining SPLAT--Shrewsbury Public Library Advisory Team. SPLAT members help us plan the programs *you* want to attend, pick materials *you* want to see in the library, and hang out with other teens. In short, it's a



group all about what *you* want. To join, fill out an application and we'll contact you when we have our next meeting. Applications are available at the front desk of the library, or on the library website at <http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/library/eventsya.asp>. To find out more about SPLAT, check out the blog at splatspl.blogspot.com

3RD ANNUAL YA BASEBALL COOKOUT

Join us for our annual baseball cookout on the library lawn. Free hot dogs, a raffle, and maybe a surprise guest or two! Don't forget to wear your favorite team's gear. Sponsored by the Friends of the Shrewsbury Public Library and the Young Adult Department. Friday, July 7, 12-2pm



REQUIRED SUMMER READING



School Summer Reading Books for students entering grades 5-12 can be found in the Young Adult Room. Because of limited copies, we ask that you only take ONE title per grade at a time. Titles can be reserved at the Front Desk or online at <http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/library>

Add us on MySpace!

Need an easier way to keep up with what's going on at the library? SPL has a profile on MySpace:

<http://www.myspace.com/shrewsburylibrary>

Find out More!

Our newsletter goes to press before all of our summer event planning is finalized. For more information about our Young Adult programs, please email YA Librarian Sarah Sogigian at: ssogigia@cwmarc.org

Curious about MySpace?

YA Librarian Sarah Sogigian and Electronic Resources Librarian Amelia Peloquin are presenting a workshop about MySpace.com for teens and parents. Tuesday, July 10 at 7pm in the large meeting room; no advance registration is required. Contact Sarah or Amelia at the library for more information.

Please note: To encourage participation, all Young Adult programs are for students entering grades 5-12 ONLY, unless otherwise noted. Older or younger children WILL NOT be admitted. Thanks for your cooperation.

SPL for Adults: News & Events

Job Search Seminar For New College Grads

Wednesday, June 7th, 7pm Not sure how to tackle getting that first job after college? Join consultant David Ellinwood for an in-depth look at what's needed to land the job of your dreams! Free, but pre-registration is required. Call 508-842-0081 for details or to sign up.

Eclectic Browsers Book Group

This book group meets the Fourth Thursday of every month at 10:30am in the Young Adult room downstairs. Refreshments are provided & new members are always welcome. Books are available at the Circulation desk one month prior to book group meetings.

June 22: *I'm a Stranger Here Myself* by Bill Bryson. We'll also discuss book selections for upcoming meetings at this session.

July 27: *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain.

August: No meeting this month. Next season's book list will be available in September, in the display rack across from the Front Desk.

Reference USA

A hands-on instructional seminar will be held in which we'll show you how to successfully access and search this popular business reference database from home. Pre-registration is required. Thursday, June 22nd, 7pm

Science Fiction Book Chats

June 7: *People of the Black Circle*
by Robert E. Howard

July 5: *Planet of the Apes* by Pierre Boulle

August 2: *Dune* by Frank Herbert

All Sci Fi Book Chats start at 7pm
on the first Wednesday of the month.

Free Computer Workshops

Still feeling tech-phobic in the 21st century? The library offers free computer workshops on an ongoing basis. Topics include: mouse and keyboarding skills, Word Processing, Web Browsing, Email, Internet Research, using the Library Catalog, and using Library resources online from home. Workshop schedules are available at the library and on the library's website. Pre-registration is highly recommended! Please stop by the front desk or call us at 508-842-0081 ext. 3 for info and registration.

Drop-in Computer Help

Have you ever just found yourself stuck on something? New this season, the library is offering drop-in computer help sessions on the following topics: Web Browsing, Word Processing, Email, and Resumes. Bring your questions and get answers! Despite the name, advance registration is recommended due to our limited number of public computers. Please contact the library for info and registration.



Tuesday Night Tech

Our new monthly lecture series *Tuesday Night Tech* is a fun and informative look at some of the tech issues that affect our lives. All lectures meet Tuesdays at 7pm, and no registration is required. Currently scheduled:

June 20: *Viruses and Spyware*

July 10: *MySpace for Parents & Teens*

Did you know we have wireless internet access? We encourage (but by no means require) you to bring your laptop & follow along! For more info, contact the library.

Shrewsbury Public Library
609 Main Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

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Permit #192
Worcester, MA 01613

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Resident Customer
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Hours for the Summer Season

Mon.-Wed. 10am-9pm

Thurs.-Sat. 9am-5pm

Sat 1-5pm*

*Last Saturday of the season is June 24

Contact Information

Phone: 508-842-0081

Fax: 508-841-8540

TTY: 508-841-8530

<http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/library>

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?

It's no secret! The Shrewsbury Public Library offers Shrewsbury residents free or discount passes to many area museums. For a complete list, contact the library or go to:

<http://shrewsbury-ma.gov/library/passes.asp>



RESERVE A MUSEUM PASS ONLINE OR WITH A LIBRARIAN TODAY!